

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

OLD SETTLERS.

SARAH EDWARDS HENSHAW.

Life's spring time brought me first to thee,
A cheerful, happy bride,
Love whispered fondly in mine ear,
Joy journeyed by my side,
And hope her sweetest music sung,
For life was fair and I was young.

That portion of the sketch in last week's paper took us through the years of bereavement and suffering, and somewhat after the manner of the cyclone. The roar of the elements being hushed, we heard a plaintive voice in musical chimings, as of far distant evening bells. It was the parting ode. There were benedictions in its chimings, soft and low, as from one "tired and faint." We think as we listen, that we hear them still:

"Blessings on thy gentle homes, Fair vale!"

With loving sighs I say it o'er,
Peace be upon thee, evermore,
Home of my heart, farewell!

A sketching more elegant, a sweeter carol, a tenderer pathos,

"O Valley of the Illinois!"

Will not soon again be penned in thy be-

half, and in remembrance of thee!

This may serve as a hint in general of

effectiveness in Mrs. Henshaw. It was

a characteristic. In the family, as teacher

and example to her children, in society, in

which work as often falls to the lot of woman,

undertaken for the common advantage, in

the church, in its humane and benevolent

work, in Sunday school and parish, this

readiness for any work, and tact to take

hold of it with enthusiasm, was signally

illustrated in the turbulent times of the war.

The Ladies' Aid Societies of that time were

a new thing, and with no precedents to

guide. Instincts led the way, and for the

most part usefully. In Ottawa Mrs. Hen-

shaw was chosen secretary for correspond-

ence. It was through these business letters

that the attention of gentlemen in Chicago

was directed to her as one likely to be help-

ful. Hon. Mark Skinner invited her to Chicago,

and in consequence she, with three others,

competent and large hearted women, became

the associate managers of the Sanitary Com-

mission there. Their work was to stimulate

supplies, keep up an interest by letters, con-

versation, newspaper writing, circulars, and

personal contact with influential persons.

It cannot be told in this brief sketch how

immense the work was, especially that con-

cerned with the great sanitary fair, sug-

gested by Mrs. Livermore, but which be-

came effective by the management of others.

By a wise method Mrs. Henshaw herself

secured an editorial co-operation through all

Northwest, sending out between three and

four bushels of printed circular letters to

editors, and securing advertising that

reached nearly every home. The great

Northwest poured out its gifts, and then its

people to witness the immense collection

and to purchase. More than one million of

dollars in money and goods was distributed

by the commission. The cultivated and ac-

complished gentlemen very prominent as

managers in the commission, first, President

Judge Skinner, afterwards President Hon.

E. B. McCagg, Mr. E. W. Batchford, treas-

urer, invited Mrs. Henshaw to the hospi-

talities of their homes, and in this more inti-

mate social relation came more fully to ap-

preciate her many admirable qualities.

From the first it was the quality and style

of her writing that led them to secure her

co-operation. Her letters, the good English,

the directness, the sprightliness, the strong

grasp, the clear cut thought, the high moral

tone, the soul in them, led them to make her

acquaintance, a stranger. Her manners, her

deportment, her ready wit, and earnest,

agreeable conversation made evident her

training and her association with cultivated,

refined and educated people, and won their

confidence and her place as guest in their

households. These were not merely well

educated and "finished gentlemen" in de-

partment and style of life, but were fastid-

ious in taste and select in methods. It was

therefore an honor and a triumph of recog-

nized genius in her selection at the first.

How much greater after that, when the war

was over, to have received from the then

president, Hon. E. B. McCagg, the following

note:

CHICAGO, March 16, 1886.—My Dear

Mrs. Henshaw: The Northwestern Sanitary

Commission has completed the work

which called it into existence, and the time

seems to have come when the history of that

work should be written.

The members of the Commission agree in

the hope that you will be willing to under-

take it.

We have on hand probably all the ma-

terial necessary, and it seems to me that, if

you have the time, you may find it a pleas-

ant occupation. Sincerely your friend,

E. B. McCagg.

The reply is characteristic:

E. B. McCagg, Esq.—My Dear Sir: I

was quite unprepared for your favor of the

16th asking me to write the history of the

work done by our branch of the Sanitary

Commission.

each, there would be 60,000 women whose

heart sympathies and hers had much in

common.

The work was undertaken and done. "A

spirited and attractive account," said Judge

Skinner, "a difficult task, a bird's-eye view

of the whole work of the commission. That

it has been successfully accomplished will

be felt and acknowledged by all its readers

who are competent to judge." It was a

handsome volume of more than four hundred

pages, beautifully printed. Its material

and its work all were the product of the

Northwest.

The book was noticed by the press. Met-

ley, the historian, reviewed it favorably.

The *Nation* complimented it, and in like

manner the newspaper press of New York,

and of Philadelphia and of Connecticut.

No intellectual effort from a citizen of Otta-

wa ever received a more distinguished rec-

ognition, or more just and flattering com-

mentation.

It is much to be regretted that the plates

from which it was printed were burned in

the Chicago fire, and that it is now very

difficult to get a copy. It should be among

the first purchased for the new Redick

library. We take from page 307 the follow-

ing foot note:

Isaac A. Ackerman, a drayman of Ottawa,

gave all the drayage needed by the Aid So-

ciety in that place through the war, often

working after dark and "out of hours" to

carry out his patriotic intent.

The "Interview" poem of "H. E." in

last Saturday's paper, is not one of those

gushing sentimental spring poems, that

have their birth at this season of the year;

but it is a plain picture poem of a rich

penurious "croaker" who, for the good of

a city, has too many duplicates. The poem

was first offered to the *Journal*, but was

declined for the given reason that it

seemed to give some special gratuitous ad-

vertising to one of our prominent insur-

ance and real estate men. Of course, all

will concede that the inspiration of the

poem must have had its origin in the of-

fice of Dr. J. O. Harris; but, the doctor is

a man who, for years, has devoted freely,

much of his time, and gives a great deal

of gratuitous advertising for the special

benefit of Ottawa. Now if the poem should

be of any reflective, homeopathic val-

uation to the doctor, he certainly should

have the benefit of it, and we printed it

cheerfully, feeling assured that many

heads bobbed up, and said, "that means

me."

Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses have been

granted during the past week:

Edward G. Oakford and Ella E. Waid.

P. Herbert and Barbara Bland.

James H. Larkin and Theresa Connors.

John Schafer and Johanna Komp.

W. H. Cady and Bertha Mohrens.

John Flynn and Mary Ann Annon.

Henry J. Dawell and Eva M. McKel.

William H. Irving and Anna Lawrence.

Earnest McKenstock and Anna Fishburn.

When used persistently, Salvation Oil

never fails to cure rheumatism and neural-

gia. Price 25 cts.

Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup is the most popu-

lar expectorant we are selling.

HADLEY BROS.,

817 Indiana Avenue, Indianapolis, Ind.

Where the Money Goes.

The following facts from the bi-annual re-

port of the State Auditor may not be with-

out interest:

In item of disbursements on account of

local bond fund were the following: Bruce,

\$2,997.08; Dayton, \$2,682.01; La Salle,

\$2,757.11; Osgo, \$1,212.11; Ottawa, \$564.

76; South Ottawa, \$1,763.91; Marseilles,

\$123.08; School Dist. No. 2, \$33 N. R. E.

\$3,021.29.

School funds distributed in this county,

1884: Children, \$5,927; interest, \$1,301.38;

tax, \$22,856.61; total, \$24,157.99. Total in

1885, \$24,157.99.

State taxes charged against county in 1884,

\$98,796.16; amount collected, \$63,373.45.

In 1885, \$82,165.08; collected, \$75,911.26.

Total taxes charged in tax books for the

whole state, 1885, \$29,445,931.16. For

Railroad assessment, 1886, La Salle county,

180 miles of main track, 57 miles of second

track, equalized value, \$1,774,119.

There were, in 1886, 10 companies on

which the State Board made assessment of

capital stock, 8 reported stock of \$2,112,

000. The 10 were assessed at \$312,539.

Bonds issued by towns in this county for

other than railroad aid, registered in Audi-

tor's office, all to fund indebtedness;

amounts outstanding September 30, 1886:

La Salle, \$19,000; due Aug. 1, 1890-92, 7

per cent interest, Marseilles, \$1,000; 5 20's,

1879, 7 per cent interest. Sch. Dist. 12, 33,

1, Oct. 1, 1890, \$10,000, 6 per cent.

Local indebtedness in La Salle county re-

ported July 1, 1886: Total, \$208,478, as fol-

lows: Allen, \$1,800; Bruce, \$13,300; Dim-

ick, \$3,000; Eagle, \$8,500; Earl, \$4,000;

Fall River, \$1,170; La Salle, \$79,000 (town,

\$37,000; city, \$32,000; school, \$10,000);

Mendota, \$8,000; Meriden, \$300; Osgo,

\$6,150; Ottawa, city, \$27,500; Otter Creek,

\$1,000; Peru, \$36,500 (town, \$24,500; city,

\$12,000); Rutland, \$8,500; Utica, \$9,500;

Wallace, \$1,208.

From Grand Ridge

GRAND RIDGE, April 27.—Fine weather

is the rule and quite a number of the

farmers are improving it by planting their

corn.

John Yocum spent a few day under his

parental roof recently. Mr. Yocum is now

residing in Kalamazoo, Mich. where he

has a good situation.

Geo. Poundstone, a student of the Otta-

wa high school, has been spending a few

weeks at home on account of poor health.

Messrs Taylor, Geo. Woodward and Mrs.

Antram, have returned from Pa. They

now mourn the death of a father.

Grand Ridge is not dead, neither is she

dying. If the business that was held Mon-

day eve is a true index. At the appointed

time the meeting was called to order and

C. Porter elected as chairman. The busi-

ness was considered was the construction

of a sidewalk from the C. P. church to

Watson's corner. As the greater part of

the money had been raised by an order

supper, the thing necessary was to ap-

point a committee to see the work perform-

ed. Messrs. Essex, Eckert and Porter

were appointed, and we soon expect to see

along dry shed.

Rev. J. Morphish has moved to Grand

Gidge.

Why did not Brown, the fruit man, be-

lieve canvassing while in the city? En-